

EXHIBIT A



Firm Resume

Jonathan Tycko and Hassan Zavareei founded Tycko & Zavareei LLP in 2002 when they left a large national firm to form a private public interest law firm. Since then, a wide range of clients have trusted the firm with their most difficult problems. Those clients include individuals fighting for their rights, tenants' associations battling to preserve decent and affordable housing, consumers seeking redress for unfair business practices, whistleblowers exposing fraud and corruption, and non-profit entities and businesses facing difficult litigation.

The firm's practice focuses on complex litigation, with a particular emphasis on consumer and other types of class actions, and *qui tam* and False Claims Act litigation. In its class action practice, the firm represent consumers who have been victims of corporate wrongdoing. The firm's attorneys bring a unique perspective to such litigation because many of them trained at major national defense firms where they obtained experience representing corporate defendants in such cases. This unique perspective enables the firm to anticipate and successfully counter the strategies commonly employed by corporate counsel defending class action litigation. Tycko & Zavareei LLP's attorneys have successfully obtained class certification, been appointed class counsel, and obtained approval of class action settlements with common funds totaling over \$500 million.

Tycko & Zavareei LLP's sixteen attorneys graduated from some of the nation's finest law schools, including Harvard Law School, Columbia Law School, Duke University School of Law, UC Berkeley School of Law, Georgetown Law, and the University of Michigan Law School. They have served in prestigious clerkships for federal and state trial and appellate judges and have worked for low-income clients through competitive public interest fellowships. The firm's diversity makes it a leader amongst its peers, and the firm actively and successfully recruits attorneys who are women, people of color, and LGBTQ. To support its mission of litigating in the public interest, Tycko & Zavareei LLP offers a unique public interest fellowship for recent law graduates. Tycko & Zavareei LLP's attorneys practice in state and federal courts across the nation.

Representative Cases

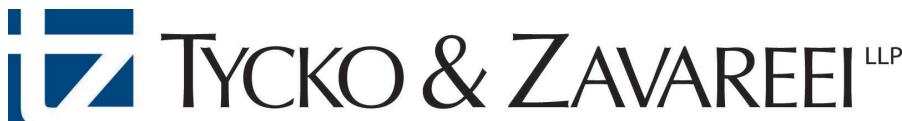
Vergara v. Uber Technologies, Inc., No. 1:15-cv-06972 (N.D. Ill.). Tycko & Zavareei LLP served as Co-Lead Counsel in this case under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, in which he obtained a class settlement of \$20 million.

In re Fifth Third Early Access Cash Advance Litigation, No. 1:12-cv-00851 (S.D. Ohio). Tycko & Zavareei LLP was appointed Co-Lead Counsel in these consolidated payday lending cases, which are in discovery after a successful appeal before the Sixth Circuit.

Farrell v. Bank of America, N.A., No. 16-cv-000492 (S.D. Cal.). As Co-Lead Counsel, Tycko & Zavareei LLP obtained a settlement valued at \$66.6 million plus injunctive relief valued at \$1.2 billion.

In re TD Bank, N.A. Debit Card Overdraft Fee Litigation, No. 15-md-02613 (D.S.C.). Tycko & Zavareei LLP serves on the Plaintiffs Executive Committee in this case challenging TD Bank's overdraft fee practices. Tycko & Zavareei LLP assisted in obtaining a \$70 million class settlement.

In re Higher One Account Marketing & Sales Practices Litigation, No. 12-md-02407 (D. Conn.). As Lead Counsel, Tycko & Zavareei LLP helped secure a \$15 million common fund settlement with significant changes to business practices for illegal debit card fees.



Duval v. Citizens Financial Group, Inc., No. 10-cv-21080 (S.D. Fla.). Tycko & Zavareei LLP was appointed Class Counsel and obtained a common fund settlement of \$137.5 million.

In re American Psychological Association Assessment Fee Litigation, No. 10-cv-01780 (D.D.C.). Tycko & Zavareei LLP served as Co-Lead Counsel in this case challenging the APA's deceptive fee practices, and achieved a \$9.02 million common fund settlement for the class.

Lloyd v. Navy Federal Credit Union, No. 17-cv-1280 (S.D. Cal.). As Co-Lead Counsel, Tycko & Zavareei LLP helped secure a \$24.5 million common fund settlement on behalf of a class of NFCU customers harmed by the credit union's overdraft fee practices.

Morgan v. Apple, Inc., No. 17-cv-5277 (N.D. Cal.), **Simmons v. Apple Inc.**, No. 17CV312251 (Sup. Ct. Ca., Santa Clara Cty.). Tycko & Zavareei LLP is currently serving as Lead Counsel in this class action challenging Apple's deceptive marketing of Powerbeats headphones and secured a \$9.75 million settlement for the class, which is pending preliminary approval.

Wallace v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., No. 17CV31775 (Sup. Ct. Ca., Santa Clara Cty.). Tycko & Zavareei LLP serve as Co-Lead Counsel in this case against Wells Fargo's overdraft fee practices. Tycko & Zavareei LLP recently moved for preliminary approval of a \$10.5 million common fund class settlement.

Roberts v. Capital One Financial Corporation, No. 16-cv-04841 (S.D.N.Y.). As Co-Lead Counsel, Tycko & Zavareei LLP helped secure a \$17 million settlement on behalf of Capital One customers forced to pay excessive overdraft fees.

Hawkins v. First Tennessee Bank, N.A., No. CT-0040851-11 (Cir. Ct. Shelby Cty. Tenn.). As Co-Lead Counsel, Tycko & Zavareei LLP helped obtain a class settlement of \$16.75 million on behalf of bank customers harmed by First Tennessee's predatory overdraft fees.

Mascaro v. TD Bank, N.A., No. 10-cv-21117 (S.D. Fla.). Tycko & Zavareei LLP was appointed Class Counsel and was instrumental in obtaining a \$62 million common fund on behalf of the class.

Trombley v. National City Bank, No. 10-cv-00232 (D.D.C.). Tycko & Zavareei LLP served as Lead Counsel and obtained a \$12 million common fund settlement on behalf of a class of consumers.

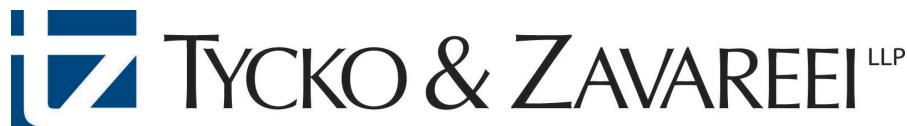
Taulava v. Bank of Hawaii, No. 11-1-0337-02 (Cir. Ct. of 1st Cir., Haw.). As Co-Lead Counsel, Tycko & Zavareei LLP obtained a \$9 million common fund for a class of customers who were harmed by Bank of Hawaii's overdraft fee practices.

Bodnar v. Bank of America, N.A., No. 14-cv-3224 (E.D. Pa.). Tycko & Zavareei LLP served as lead Counsel and obtained a \$27.5 million class settlement and significant injunctive relief.

Lambert v. Navy Federal Credit Union, No. 19-cv-00103 (E.D. Va.). Tycko & Zavareei LLP was appointed Class Counsel and helped secure a \$16 million settlement on behalf of members of Navy Federal Credit Union who were harmed by the credit union's practice of assessing a second or third NSF Fee upon re-presentment of debit items or checks.

Hamm v. Sharp Electronics Corp., No. 19-cv-488 (M.D. Fla.). Tycko & Zavareei LLP was appointed Co-Lead Counsel and was instrumental in providing relief valued at \$109 million for class members exposed to a product defect in certain Sharp Microwave Drawer Ovens.

Gibbs v. TCV V, LP & Gibbs v. Rees, Nos. 19-cv-789 & 20-cv-717 (E.D. Va.). Tycko & Zavareei LLP was named class counsel in one of, if not, the largest unlawful tribal payday lending schemes. Thus far, class counsel has been able to obtain a settlement fund over \$60 million as well as the cancellation of \$380 million in loans.



Hassan A. Zavareei

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Mr. Zavareei has devoted the last eighteen years to recovering hundreds of millions of dollars on behalf of consumers and workers. He has served in leadership roles in dozens of class action cases and has been appointed Class Counsel on behalf of numerous litigation and settlement classes. An accomplished and experienced attorney, Mr. Zavareei has litigated in state and federal courts across the nation in a wide range of practice areas; tried several cases to verdict; and successfully argued numerous appeals, including in the D.C. Circuit, the Fourth Circuit, and the Fifth Circuit.

After graduating from UC Berkeley School of Law, Mr. Zavareei joined the Washington, D.C. office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP. There, he managed the defense of a nationwide class action brought against a major insurance carrier, along with other complex civil matters. In 2002, Mr. Zavareei founded Tycko & Zavareei LLP with his partner Jonathan Tycko.

Mr. Zavareei has served as lead counsel or co-counsel in dozens of class actions involving deceptive business practices, defective products, and/or privacy. He has been appointed to leadership roles in multiple cases. As Lead Counsel in an MDL against a financial services company that provided predatory debit cards to college students, Mr. Zavareei spearheaded a fifteen-million-dollar recovery for class members. He is currently serving as Co-Lead Counsel in consolidated proceedings against Fifth Third Bank, and on the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee in MDL litigation against TD Bank. As Co-Lead Counsel in *Farrell v. Bank of America*, a case challenging Bank of America's punitive overdraft fees, Mr. Zavareei secured a class settlement valued at \$66.6 million in cash and debt relief, together with injunctive relief forcing the bank to change a practice that will save millions of low-income consumers approximately \$1.2 billion in overdraft fees. In his Order granting final approval, Judge Lorenz of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California described the outcome as a "remarkable" accomplishment achieved through "tenacity and great skill."

Education

UC Berkeley School of Law, 1995
Order of the Coif
Duke University, 1990
cum laude

Bar Admissions

California
District of Columbia
Maryland
Supreme Court of the United States

Memberships

Public Justice, Board Member
American Association for Justice

Awards

Washington Lawyers Committee,
Outstanding Achievement Award
Super Lawyer
Lawdragon 500

Presentations & Publications

Witness Before the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, 115th Congress

Witness Before the Civil Rules Advisory Committee, 2018, 2019

Editor, Duke Law School Center for Judicial Studies, Guidance on New Rule 23 Class Action Settlement Provisions



Jonathan Tycko

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In his 25 years of practice, Jonathan Tycko has represented a wide range of clients, including individuals, Fortune 500 companies, privately-held business, and non-profit associations, in both trial and appellate courts around the country. Although he continues to handle a variety of cases, his current practice is focused primarily on helping whistleblowers expose fraud and corruption through qui tam litigation under the False Claims Act and other similar whistleblower statutes. Mr. Tycko's whistleblower clients have brought to light hundreds of millions of dollars in fraud in cases involving healthcare, government contracts, customs and import duties, banking and tax.

Prior to founding Tycko & Zavareei LLP in 2002, Mr. Tycko was with Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, one of the nation's top law firms. He received his law degree in 1992 from Columbia University Law School, and earned a B.A. degree, with honors, in 1989 from The Johns Hopkins University. After graduating from law school, Mr. Tycko served for two years as law clerk to Judge Alexander Harvey, II, of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland.

In addition to his private practice, Mr. Tycko is an active participant in other law-related and community activities. He currently serves on the Conference Committee of the Taxpayers Against Fraud Education Fund, charged with planning the premier annual conference of whistleblower attorneys and their counterparts at the United States Department of Justice and other government agencies. He has taught as an Adjunct Professor at the George Washington University Law School. He is a former member and Chairperson of the Rules of Professional Conduct Review Committee of the District of Columbia Bar, where he helped draft the ethics rules governing members of the bar. And Mr. Tycko is a member of the Board of Trustees of Studio Theatre, one of the D.C. area's top non-profit theaters.

Mr. Tycko is admitted to practice before the courts of the District of Columbia, Maryland and New York, as well as before numerous federal courts, including the Supreme Court, the Circuit Courts for the D.C. Circuit, Third Circuit, Fourth Circuit, Fifth Circuit, Seventh Circuit, Ninth Circuit, Eleventh Circuit and Federal Circuit, the District Courts for the District of Columbia and District of Maryland, the Southern District of New York, the Northern District of New York, the Western District of New York, and the Court of Federal Claims.

Education

Columbia University Law School,
1992

The Johns Hopkins University, 1989,
with honors

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia
Maryland
New York
Supreme Court of the United States

Memberships

American Association for Justice
(AAJ)
Public Justice
Taxpayers Against Fraud Education
Fund (TAFEF)

Awards

Stone Scholar (all three years),
Columbia Law School
Thomas E. Dewey Prize for Best
Brief, Harlan Fiske Stone Moot Court
Competition, Columbia Law School
Award of Litigation Excellence,
CARECEN-The Central American
Resource Center
Super Lawyers, 2012-current
Member of the D.C. Bar Leadership
Academy



Andrea R. Gold

Partner

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Andrea Gold has spent her legal career advocating for consumers, employees, and whistleblowers. Ms. Gold has litigated numerous complex cases, including through trial. Her extensive litigation experience benefits the firm's clients in both national class action cases as well as in qui tam whistleblower litigation.

She has served as trial counsel in two lengthy jury trials.

In her class action practice, Ms. Gold has successfully defended dispositive motions, navigated complex discovery, worked closely with leading experts, and obtained contested class certification. Her class action cases have involved, amongst other things, unlawful bank fees, product defects, violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, and deceptive advertising and sales practices.

Ms. Gold also has significant civil rights experience. She has represented individuals and groups of employees in employment litigation, obtaining substantial recoveries for employees who have faced discrimination, harassment, and other wrongful conduct. In addition, Ms. Gold has appellate experience in both state and federal court.

Prior to joining Tycko & Zavareei LLP, Ms. Gold was a Skadden fellow. The Skadden Fellowship Foundation was created by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, one of the nation's top law firms, to support the work of new attorneys at public interest organizations around the country.

Ms. Gold earned her law degree from the University of Michigan Law School, where she was an associate editor of the Journal of Law Reform, co-President of the Law Students for Reproductive Choice, and a student attorney at the Family Law Project clinical program. Ms. Gold graduated with high distinction from the University of Michigan Ross School of Business in 2001, concentrating her studies in Finance and Marketing.

Education

University of Michigan Law School, 2004

University of Michigan, Ross School of Business, 2001

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia
Illinois
Maryland

Memberships

American Association for Justice
National Associate of Consumer Advocates

National Employment Lawyers Association

Public Justice

Taxpayers Against Fraud Education Fund

Awards

National Trial Lawyers, Top 100 Civil Plaintiff Lawyers, 2020

Super Lawyers, Rising Star

Skadden Fellow, Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP, 2004-2006



Anna Haac

Partner

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Anna C. Haac is a Partner in Tycko & Zavareei LLP's Washington, D.C. office. She focuses her practice on consumer protection class actions and whistleblower litigation. Her prior experience at Covington & Burling LLP, one of the nation's most prestigious defense-side law firms, gives her a unique advantage when representing plaintiffs against large companies in complex cases. Since arriving at Tycko & Zavareei LLP, Ms. Haac has represented consumers in a wide range of practice areas, including product liability, false labeling, deceptive and unfair trade practices, and predatory financial practices. Her whistleblower practice involves claims for fraud on federal and state governments across an equally broad spectrum of industries, including health care fraud, customs fraud, and government contracting fraud.

Ms. Haac has helped secure multimillion-dollar relief on behalf of the classes and whistleblowers she represents. Ms. Haac also serves as the D.C. Co-Chair of the National Association of Consumer Advocates and as Co-Chair of the Antitrust and Consumer Law Section Steering Committee of the D.C. Bar.

Ms. Haac earned her law degree cum laude from the University of Michigan Law School in 2006 and went on to clerk for the Honorable Catherine C. Blake of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland. Prior to law school, Ms. Haac graduated with a B.A. in political science with highest distinction from the Honors Program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Ms. Haac is a member of the District of Columbia and Maryland state bars. She is also admitted to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second, Third, and Fourth Circuits and the United States District Courts for the District of Columbia, District of Maryland, and the Eastern District of Michigan, among others.

Education

University of Michigan Law School,
2006, *cum laude*

University of North Carolina at
Chapel Hill, 2002, *highest honors*

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia
Maryland

Memberships

Antitrust & Consumer Protection
Section of District of Columbia Bar,
Co-Chair

National Association of Consumer
Advocates, District of Columbia
Co-Chair

Awards

Super Lawyers, Rising Star, 2015

Presentations & Publications

Discussion Leader, "Practical Ideas about Properly Framing the Issues and Educating the Court and Public in Filings Responding to Increasing Attacks on Class Action Settlements and Fees," Invitation-Only Cambridge Forum on Plaintiffs' Class Action Litigation (October 2020)



Annick M. Persinger

Partner

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Annick M. Persinger leads Tycko & Zavareei LLP's California office as California's Managing Partner. While at Tycko & Zavareei LLP, Ms. Persinger has dedicated her practice to utilizing California's prohibitions against unfair competition and false advertising to advocate for consumers. Ms. Persinger has taken on financial institutions, companies that take advantage of consumers with deceptive advertising, tech companies that disregard user privacy, companies that sell defective products, and mortgage loan servicers. Ms. Persinger also represents whistleblowers who expose their employer's fraudulent practices.

Ms. Persinger graduated magna cum laude as a member of the Order of the Coif from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law in 2010. While in law school, Ms. Persinger served as a member of Hastings Women's Law Journal, and authored two published articles. In 2008, Ms. Persinger received an award for Best Oral Argument in the first year moot court competition. In 2007, Ms. Persinger graduated cum laude from the University of California, San Diego with a B.A. in Sociology, and minors in Law & Society and Psychology.

Following law school, Ms. Persinger worked as a legal research attorney for Judge John E. Munter in Complex Litigation at the San Francisco Superior Court.

Ms. Persinger served as an elected board member of the Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF) from 2017 to 2019, and as Co-Chair of BALIF from 2018 to 2019. During her term on the BALIF Board of Directors, Ms. Persinger advocated for LGBTQI community members with intersectional identities, and promoted anti-racism and anti-genderism. Ms. Persinger now serves as a Steering Committee member for the Cambridge Forum on Plaintiffs' Food Fraud Litigation.

Education

University of California Hastings College of Law, 2010 *Magna Cum Laude*, Order of the Coif

University of California San Diego, 2007 *Cum Laude*

Bar Admissions

California

Memberships

American Association for Justice

Plaintiffs' Food Fraud Litigation, 2020 Steering Committee Member

Public Justice

Awards

Super Lawyer, Rising Star 2020

UC Hastings, *Best Oral Argument* 2008



Kristen G. Simplicio

Partner

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Kristen G. Simplicio has devoted her career to representing victims of false advertising and corporate fraud. Prior to joining Tycko & Zavareei LLP's D.C. office in 2020, she spent ten years at a boutique class action firm in California. While there, she successfully litigated over a dozen false advertising cases against manufacturers of a variety of consumer products, including olive oil, flushable wipes, beverages, and chocolate. In connection with this work, she helped to obtain millions of dollars in refunds to consumers, as well as changed practices.

In addition to her product labeling work, Ms. Simplicio has represented plaintiffs in a wide variety of areas. For example, she was the lead associate on RICO case on behalf of small business owners against 18 defendants in the credit card processing industry. In connection with that case, she obtained a preliminary injunction halting an illegal \$10 million debt collection scheme, and later, helped to secure refunds and changed practices for the victims. She has also represented victims of other debt collectors, as well as those harmed by unlawful background and credit reporting, including a pro bono matter performed in conjunction with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area. Ms. Simplicio also worked on a lawsuit against government agencies, which were charging unconstitutional fines and fees in connection with toll collection.

Ms. Simplicio graduated cum laude from American University, Washington College of Law in 2007. She holds a bachelor's degree from McGill University. She began her legal career at the United States Department of Labor, where she advised on regulations pertaining to group health insurance plans. Before and during law school, Ms. Simplicio worked for other plaintiffs' law firms.

Ms. Simplicio serves as the D.C. Co-Chair of the National Association of Consumer Advocates. She is admitted to practice in California and the District of Columbia.

Education

American University, Washington College of Law, 2007 *cum laude*

McGill University, 1999

Bar Admissions

California
District of Columbia

Memberships

National Association of Consumer Advocates
American Association for Justice



Sabita J. Soneji

Partner

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In almost 20 years of practice, Sabita J. Soneji has developed extensive experience in litigation and legal policy at both the federal and state level and a passion for fighting consumer fraud. Now a Partner in Tycko & Zavareei LLP's Oakland office, she focuses on consumer protection class actions and whistleblower litigation. In addition to her success with novel Telephone Consumer Protection cases, False Claims Act cases involving insurance fraud, and deceptive and false advertising cases, Ms. Soneji serves in leadership on multi-district litigation against Juul, for its manufacture and marketing to youth of an addictive nicotine product. Ms. Soneji also successfully represents consumers harmed by massive data breaches and by corporate practices that collect and monetize user data without consent. She serves as head of the firm's Privacy and Data Breach Group.

Ms. Soneji began that work during her time with the United States Department of Justice, as Senior Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General. In that role, she oversaw civil and criminal prosecution of various forms of financial fraud that arose in the wake of the 2008 recession. For that work, Ms. Soneji partnered with other federal agencies, state attorneys' general, and consumer advocacy groups. Beyond that affirmative work, Ms. Soneji worked to defend various federal programs, including the Affordable Care Act in nationwide litigation.

Ms. Soneji has extensive civil litigation experience from her four years with international law firm, her work as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Northern District of California, and from serving as Deputy County Counsel for Santa Clara County, handling civil litigation on behalf of the County including regulatory, civil rights, and employment matters. She has successfully argued motions and conducted trials in both state and federal court and negotiated settlements in complex multi-party disputes.

Early in her career, Ms. Soneji clerked for the Honorable Gladys Kessler on the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, during which she assisted the judge in overseeing the largest civil case in American history, *United States v. Phillip Morris, et al.*, a civil RICO case brought against major tobacco manufacturers for fraud in the marketing, sale, and design of cigarettes. The opinion in that case paved the way for Congress to authorize FDA regulation of cigarettes.

Ms. Soneji is a graduate of the University of Houston, *summa cum laude*, with degrees in Math and Political Science, and Georgetown University Law Center, *magna cum laude*.

Education

Georgetown University Law Center,
magna cum laude

University of Houston, *summa cum laude*

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia
California

Memberships

American Association for Justice
(AAJ)

Public Justice

Taxpayers Against Fraud Education Fund (TAFEF)

Awards

Attorney General's Award 2014

Presentations & Publications

NITA Trial Skills Faculty 2010-present



Eva Gunasekera

Partner

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Bringing 16 years of complex litigation experience practice, Eva Gunasekera, the former Senior Counsel for Health Care Fraud at the United States Department of Justice, is now representing whistleblowers. Ms. Gunasekera has spent the better part of her career enforcing the False Claims Act and the Stark and Anti-Kickback laws.

Highly strategic, Ms. Gunasekera has many notable successes under her belt, sizeable recoveries under the False Claims Act, and has held companies accountable for fraudulent conduct that harmed important government programs such as Medicare and Medicaid. With deep health care fraud expertise, she has investigated, litigated, and settled cases involving all federal health care programs (Medicare, Medicaid, TRICARE, FEHB). Ms. Gunasekera is an expert on analyzing complex health care data sets, including Medicare and Medicaid payment data and trends, to identify potentially fraudulent practices. She has enforced anti-fraud laws and represented whistleblowers across industries: pharmaceutical manufacturers, health care providers, hospitals, physicians, physician groups, laboratories, managed care, pharmacies, hospice and nursing home providers, financial institutions, government suppliers, automotive, small businesses, and defense contractors. Many of her investigations involved parallel criminal proceedings and compliance and whistleblower programs of health care organizations, including those subjected to Corporate Integrity Agreements and oversight by Independent Review Organizations, as required by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG).

After graduating with her Master's in Public Administration from Ohio University, and from Georgetown University Law Center, Ms. Gunasekera practiced law at two international law firms. She acted as second chair during administrative trials and handled complex commercial litigation. Ms. Gunasekera also played a significant role on the team that represented the Enron Creditors Recovery Corp in the bankruptcy proceeding, successfully returning billions of dollars to creditors in the wake of the Enron scandal. Further, Ms. Gunasekera represented clients in pro bono matters, including the successful defense of an individual seeking asylum and as guardian ad litem for three children.



Education

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center, 2004

M.A., Ohio University, 2001

B.A., Ohio University, 2000

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia

Ohio

Memberships

Taxpayers Against Fraud Education Fund (TAFEF)

Federal Bar Association Qui Tam Section

Public Justice

Presentations & Publications

“Whistleblower Rewards 101” – Scottsdale (Arizona) Bar Association (March 9, 2021)

“Should the False Claims Act be Amended to Define Falsity?” - Federal Bar Association, Qui Tam Section (February 17, 2021)

Law review article: False Claims Act, the opioid crisis, whistleblowing, Emory University Law School, February 26, 2019



Renée Brooker

Partner

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Bringing 30 years of practice, knowledge, and expertise as a former prosecutor in a senior leadership position at the United States Department of Justice, Renée Brooker is now representing whistleblowers. While at the Department of Justice for over two decades, Ms. Brooker was responsible for billions of dollars in recoveries under whistleblower laws. As an accomplished and experienced attorney, Ms. Brooker has advised and represented whistleblowers under the False Claims Act (FCA), the Anti-Kickback Statute and Stark Law, FIRREA (bank fraud, mail, and wire fraud), the Financial Institutions Anti-Fraud Enforcement Act (FIAFE), and the Whistleblower Programs of the SEC, the CFTC, and the IRS.

As Assistant Director within the Civil Division of the United States Department of Justice, Ms. Brooker was responsible for sizeable recoveries and successful judgments under the False Claims Act, FIRREA, and civil RICO in almost every industry: pharmaceutical, health care, defense, financial services, government procurement, small business, insurance, tobacco products, and higher education.

Ms. Brooker received her law degree in 1990 from Georgetown University Law Center, and a B.S. degree in 1987 from Temple University. After graduating from Georgetown, Ms. Brooker served as a Law Clerk to Judge Noël Kramer in the District of Columbia for one year before joining the United States Department of Education as an attorney. Ms. Brooker was hired as part of the enforcement response to Congressional investigations of fraud in federal student aid programs affecting consumers and taxpayers. Prior to joining Tycko & Zavareei LLP in 2020, Ms. Brooker worked at another prominent whistleblower firm where she advised and represented whistleblowers while expanding the firm's whistleblower practice. Ms. Brooker also served as a member of the United States Department of Justice-appointed Independent Corporate Compliance Monitor and Auditor for Volkswagen under its Plea Agreement and Consent Decree with the United States Department of Justice.



Education

J.D., Georgetown University Law Center
B.S., Temple University

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia
Pennsylvania

Memberships

Taxpayers Against Fraud Education Fund (TAFEF)
Board Member, Federal Bar Association Qui Tam Section
National Employment Lawyers Association (NELA)

Awards

Department of Justice Commendation Award for recovering billions of dollars under the Big Lender Initiative, 2016
Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency Award for Excellence for \$1.2 billion False Claims Act settlement with Wells Fargo, 2016
Department of Justice Award for "a record of outstanding actions and accomplishments," 2015
Attorney General's Award for Fraud Prevention, 2011
Department of Justice Award for prosecuting Big Tobacco under RICO, 2005



David W. Lawler

Of Counsel

202.973.0900
dlawler@tzlegal.com



Mr. Lawler joined Tycko & Zavareei LLP in January 2012. He has over twenty years of commercial litigation experience, including an expertise in eDiscovery and complex case management. At the firm Mr. Lawler has represented consumers in a numerous practice areas, including product liability, false labeling, deceptive and unfair trade practices, and antitrust class actions litigation.

Before joining Tycko & Zavareei LLP, Mr. Lawler was an associate in the litigation departments at McKenna & Cuneo LLP and Swidler Berlin Shereff Friedman LLP.

Among Mr. Lawler's career achievements include the co-drafting of appellate briefs which resulted in rare reversal and entry of judgment in favor of client, US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Mr. Lawler is a member of the District of Columbia Bar, as well as numerous federal courts.

Education

Creighton University School of Law, 1997

University of California, Berkeley School of Law, 1989

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia

Memberships

American Association for Justice
Public Justice

Representative Cases

In re Generic Pharmaceuticals Pricing Antitrust Litigation, MDL No. 2724 (E.D. Penn.) (complex price-fixing action)

Morgan v. Apple, Inc., Case No. 4:17-cv-5277 (N.D. Cal.) (multimillion-dollar case alleging defects in high-end Powerbeats headphone)

In re Automotive Parts Antitrust Litigation, Master File No. 12-md-02311 (E.D. Mich.) (described by the Department of Justice as the largest antitrust case in history, recovering over \$1.2 billion for classes)



Victoria Hoekstra

Staff Attorney

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Victoria Hoekstra is highly skilled in e-Discovery. She was hired by Tycko & Zavareei LLP in 2018 to help with a custom's fraud case and later became a staff attorney. Currently she is working on a class action against Juul for marketing e-cigarettes to youth.

Victoria began her legal career at Paul, Hastings in Los Angeles. She moved to a small law firm and later became in-house counsel at an art store where she also ran an art education program. Victoria worked on many matters in these positions including business transactions, intellectual property rights and litigation involving accountant's malpractice, deceptive business practices, securities fraud and Elder Abuse.

In recent time, Victoria has worked on many e-Discovery projects related to large scale litigation and regulatory reviews by the DOJ, FTC, SEC, FDA and the DEA. Projects have involved breach of contract, personal injury, antitrust investigations (mergers and anti-competitive violations), anti-kickback violations, intellectual property, stock transactions, breaches of fiduciary duty and general fraud including fraudulent marketing related to the sale of opioids. Industries include pharmaceuticals, healthcare, ride-sharing platforms, telecommunications, retail, manufacturing, education, publishing, digital advertising, software development and implementation, data contracts, banking, insurance and government contracts. Victoria has also worked on compliance projects related to reviews by the DOJ and she had a long-term project answering search warrants, court orders and subpoenas related to Google products. In this capacity, Victoria helped law enforcement investigate critical crimes, but was also attentive to privacy laws.

Victoria is a Certified Public Accountant and prior to law school she worked as an auditor for a large CPA firm. Victoria was also a sole proprietor of an Internet bookstore for many years.

Victoria received a B.S. in Economics from University of California, Los Angeles. She received her Juris Doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law and she attended Oxford University (Christ Church) in England as a visiting scholar studying Philosophy.

Education

University of California, Berkeley
School of Law, J.D., 1988

University of California Los Angeles
College of Law, B.S. Economics, 1982

Bar Admissions

California

Memberships

Public Justice

CPA, California Public Accountancy



Mark A. Clifford

Associate

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Mr. Clifford zealously represents plaintiffs in class action litigation challenging corporate greed and practices that place profits over people. He is actively litigating cases against financial institutions, big tobacco, and the insurance industry over fraudulent, unfair, and unlawful conduct that has harmed millions of consumers. He also is litigating a number of data breach cases, in which the personal information of millions of innocent victims was stolen due to the lax security practices of major corporations. In addition to his consumer protection practice, Mr. Clifford represents whistleblowers who come forward with information about fraud on government programs.

Prior to joining Tycko & Zavareei LLP in 2019, Mr. Clifford was an Associate in the Washington, D.C. office of Covington & Burling LLP, one of the nation's top defense-side firms. He uses his knowledge of how the other side operates to advance the interests of clients harmed by corporate wrongdoing. During his time at Covington, Mr. Clifford represented corporations in complex litigation and government investigations, including matters involving whistleblower allegations in the healthcare and technology industries. He also maintained an active *pro bono* practice, representing indigent defendants in immigration and criminal matters.

Mr. Clifford graduated *magna cum laude* from Georgetown University Law Center in 2015. While in law school, he was an Executive Editor of the Georgetown Law Journal. Following law school, Mr. Clifford clerked for the Honorable Catherine C. Blake of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland. Prior to law school, he worked on several political campaigns following his graduation with honors from the University of Georgia in 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs and a Master of Public Administration.

Mr. Clifford is admitted to practice law in the District of Columbia, Maryland, the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Education

Georgetown University Law Center,
2015 magna cum laude
University of Georgia, 2009

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia
Maryland

Memberships

American Constitution Society
LGBT Bar Association of the District of Columbia
Public Justice

Awards

Medina S. and John M. Vasily Endowed Scholarship (GULC)
Law Center Scholar (GULC)
CALI Award – Contracts (GULC)

Presentations & Publications

Georgetown Law Journal, Executive Editor (2014 – 2015)
Co-Author, "The LGBT Community" in *Divide, Develop, and Rule: Human Rights Violations in Ethiopia*, UW College of Law (2018)



Mallory Morales

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Mallory Morales graduated magna cum laude from Boston University in 2013, with a degree in Anthropology and Religion. After graduation she worked at the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office as a mediator for its consumer advocacy division, and then as a paralegal in the division of open government.

She earned her law degree from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law in 2018, where she was elected Editor-in-Chief of the California Law Review. While in law school Ms. Morales also participated in La Raza Law Students' Association, Women of Color Collective, La Raza Law Journal, and First Generation Professionals. She interned for the East Bay Community Law Center and externed for the Honorable William H. Alsup on the United States District Court, Northern District of California.

Prior to joining Tycko & Zavareei LLP in 2020, Ms. Morales practiced commercial litigation at Morrison & Foerster LLP in San Francisco. She maintained a pro bono practice in civil rights litigation and indigent criminal defense.

Ms. Morales is admitted to the State Bar of California and the bars of the United States District Courts for the Northern District of California and Eastern District of California.

Education

University of California, Berkeley
School of Law, 2018

Boston University, 2013, *magna cum laude*

Bar Admissions

California



Dia Rasinariu

Associate

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Dia Rasinariu graduated *cum laude* from Harvard Law School in 2016. While in law school, Ms. Rasinariu served as an Executive Editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. She was also a member of HLS Lambda. Following law school, Ms. Rasinariu clerked for the Honorable Diana Gribbon Motz on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Ms. Rasinariu earned her Bachelor of Arts, with distinction, from Cornell University in 2011, with majors in Government and in Economics.

Prior to joining Tycko & Zavareei LLP in 2021, Ms. Rasinariu was a litigation associate in the Washington, D.C. office of Jones Day. Ms. Rasinariu maintained an active pro bono practice, representing clients on civil rights, asylum, and domestic violence matters.

Ms. Rasinariu is a member of the District of Columbia and Illinois state bars. She is also admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the District of Maryland and the United States Courts of Appeals for the Fourth and Sixth Circuits.



Education

Harvard Law School, 2016
cum laude

Cornell University, 2011
with distinction

Bar Admissions

Illinois
District of Columbia

Memberships

Public Justice

Awards

Super Lawyers, Rising Star 2020



Lauren Kuhlik

Associate

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Prior to joining Tycko & Zavareei in 2021, Lauren Kuhlik was a fellow at the National Prison Project of the American Civil Liberties Union, where she engaged in litigation and other advocacy to stop unconstitutional and illegal practices by prison and jail administrators and ICE. She focused on improving conditions of confinement for pregnant and postpartum people, as well as fighting to eliminate the inhumane practice of solitary confinement. During the COVID-19 crisis, Ms. Kuhlik maintained an extensive habeas practice seeking to secure the release of detained individuals with medical vulnerabilities.

Ms. Kuhlik graduated cum laude from Harvard Law School in 2017. She also received a Masters in Public Health from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in 2017. Following law school, Ms. Kuhlik clerked for the Honorable Stephen Glickman of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. She has published articles regarding the treatment of pregnant incarcerated people in the Harvard Law and Policy Review and the Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review. Ms. Kuhlik has also published about gender and incarceration in USA Today and Ms. Magazine, among others.

Education

Harvard Law School, 2017 *Cum Laude*
Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, M.P.H., 2017
Wesleyan University, BA in Philosophy with Honors, 2011

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia
Virginia (inactive)

Memberships

Public Justice

Publications & Presentations

National Abortion Federation Annual Meeting (2021)
Pregnancy, Systematic Disregard and Degradation, and Carceral Institutions, Harvard Law & Policy Review (2020)
Harvard Law & Policy Review Fall Symposium (2019)
Society of Family Planning Annual Meeting (2019)
George Mason University Law School Civil Rights Law Journal Symposium (2019)
Pregnancy Behind Bars: The Constitutional Argument for Reproductive Healthcare Access in Prison, Harvard Civil Rights & Civil Liberties Law Review (2017)



Allison W. Parr

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Prior to joining Tycko & Zavareei in 2021, Allison W. Parr was an associate in the Washington, D.C. office of Mayer Brown LLP, where she represented corporations in complex commercial litigation, including cases involving unfair competition and false advertising claims. Previously, Ms. Parr was a litigation associate in the New York office of Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP, where she maintained an active pro bono practice in LGBTQ civil rights.

Ms. Parr graduated from the Georgetown University Law Center in 2018, where she served as the Articles and Notes Editor for the Food and Drug Law Journal. During law school, Ms. Parr externed for the Commercial Litigation Branch, Fraud Section of the Department of Justice, where she assisted with cases involving allegations of fraud against the government. Ms. Parr received her Bachelor of Music from the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University in 2013.

Ms. Parr is admitted to practice in New York and the District of Columbia.



Education

Georgetown University, 2018

John Hopkins University, 2013
Dean's List with High Honors

Bar Admissions

New York
District of Columbia

Memberships

Public Justice

Presentations & Publications

Agribusiness and Antibiotics: A Market-Based Solution, 73 Food & Drug L.J. 338 (2018)



Glenn Chappell

Associate

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Glenn Chappell is an associate in the Washington, D.C. office. Prior to joining Tycko & Zavareei, he was an associate in the Washington, D.C. office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, one of the nation's most prestigious defense-side firms. During his time at Gibson Dunn, Mr. Chappell represented corporations in complex litigation at the trial and appellate levels, including the United States Supreme Court. He also maintained an active pro bono practice that focused on police and sentencing reform.

Mr. Chappell graduated summa cum laude from Duke University School of Law in 2017, where he served as Managing Editor of the *Duke Law Journal* and Senior Research Editor of the *Duke Law & Technology Review*. While in law school, he dedicated more than 450 hours to pro bono work.

After graduating law school, Mr. Chappell clerked for the Honorable Gerald Bard Tjoflat of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit and the Honorable Anthony J. Trenga of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. Before law school, he worked as a manager in the manufacturing industry. He graduated with honors from Saint Leo University, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration. His legal scholarship has appeared in multiple publications, including the *Duke Law Journal* and the *University of Richmond Law Review*.

Education

Duke University School of Law, 2017
Summa Cum Laude, Order of the Coif
Saint Leo University, 2011 *Cum Laude*

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia
Virginia

Memberships

Order of the Coif
Virginia Equality Bar Association
American Constitution Society
Virginia Bar Association

Publications

The Historical Case for Constitutional “Concepts”, 53 UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND LAW REVIEW 373 (2019)
Health Care’s Other ‘Big Deal’: Direct Primary Care Regulation in Contemporary American Health Law, 66 DUKE LAW JOURNAL 1331 (2017)
Seeking Rights, Not Rent: How Litigation Finance Can Help Break Copyright’s Precedent Gridlock, 15 DUKE LAW & TECHNOLOGY REVIEW 269 (2017)



Leora N. Friedman

Fellow

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Leora Friedman received her J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center in 2020.

At Georgetown Law, Leora obtained diverse legal experience through experiential courses led by the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law and by the Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection. In addition, she authored papers proposing new legal frameworks for addressing the negative health impacts of electronic cigarettes and improving pandemic preparedness through writing-intensive coursework.

During law school, Leora also served as an intern for the Department of Justice's Office of Vaccine Litigation and its Consumer Protection Branch. She was an Executive Editor for the Georgetown Environmental Law Review, which published her note "Recommending Judicial Reconstruction of Title VI to Curb Environmental Racism: A Recklessness-Based Theory of Discriminatory Intent."

Previously, Leora was the Rockefeller Foundation's Princeton Project 55 Fellow from 2014-2015 and, thereafter, aided international health advocacy campaigns at Global Health Strategies.

She graduated from Princeton University with an A.B. in Politics in 2014.

Education

Georgetown University Law Center,
2020

Princeton University, 2014

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia

Memberships

Public Justice

Executive Editor, Georgetown Environmental Law Review, 2019–2020

Publications

Recommending Judicial Reconstruction of Title VI to Curb Environmental Racism: A Recklessness-Based Theory of Discriminatory Intent, 32 GEO. ENV'T L. REV. 421 (2020)